

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-07 SAM-01 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

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FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7761

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTREAL 966

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGEN, CA

SUBJ: TRUDEAU WORRIED OVER US REACTION TO TAIWAN HANDLING

1. FOREIGN POLICY ADVISER IVAN HEAD TOLD AMBASSADOR YESTERDAY JULY 16, THAT TRUDEAU IS "ALARMED" BY THE UNANIMITY, VICIOUSNESS" OF US MEDIA REACTION TO CANADA'S HANDLING OF THE TAIWAN ISSUE. ACCORDING TO HEAD, TRUDEAU RECOGNIZES THAT CANADA HAS MADE MORE IMPRESSION ON MORE AMERICANS THROUGH SPORTING PAGES AND BROADCASTS IN THE LAST FEW DAYS THAN THROUGH ALMOST ANY EVENT IN MEMORY, AND THAT THE IMPRESSION IS STRONGLY NEGATIVE. IN AN EFFORT TO TURN THE REACTION AROUND AND GET HIS STORY ACROSS, TRUDEAU HAS TAPED AN INTERVIEW WITH CBS, AND WILL DO ANOTHER FOR ABC.

2. HEAD BLAMED EXTERNAL AFFAIRS FOR OVERPLAYING CANADA'S HAND. TRUDEAU AND THE CABINET, HE SAID, HAD NEVER FOCUSSED ON MORE THAN THE NAME ISSUE. TRUDEAU AND HEAD HAD "ALWAYS ASSUMED" THAT THE POSITION CANADA WAS ADOPTING WAS THE ROME FORMULA. ONLY ON JULY 14 DID HEAD REALIZE THAT EXTERNAL WAS ALSO INSISTING ON NO NATIONAL FLAG OR ANTHEM. HEAD THEN CLAIMS TO HAVE INTERVENED TO ENGINEER THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN KILANIN AND TRUDEAU PERMITTING USE OF THE FLAG AND ANTHEM, BUT NOT THE NAME.

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3. THROUGHOUT THE DISCUSSION HEAD BETRAYED NO BITTERNESS

TOWARD THE US ON HIS PART OR TRUDEAU'S. ON THE CONTRARY,
HE APPEARED ANXIOUS TO CONCILIATE, AND GET THE ISSUE BEHIND
US AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

4. COMMENT: ASIDE FROM HEAD'S CUSTOMERY RIVALRY WITH EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS MINISTER MACEACHEN, TRUDEAU IS HANGING MACEACHEN OUT
TO DRY ON TAIWAN. HEAD AND OTHERS IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S
OFFICE ARE GIVING PRESS SAME STORY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OVER-
PLAYING THE HAND.
ENDERS

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